Rural development benefits to rural population in proximity of urban areas

2176. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with fast urbanisation of villages in proximity of cities and towns, large number of villages and rural population is deprived of the benefits of various rural development and anti-poverty schemes and programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and being taken by Government to ensure that such poor rural population is not deprived of such benefits and get the protection of various laws and enactments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) All the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are implemented in all rural areas of all the States/UTs in the country except Chandigarh and Delhi. These schemes focus on proverty alleviation, employment generation, area development and improvement of quality of life of the families living Below Proverty Line (BPL).

Steps for better economic condition of rural people

2177. SHRI M.A.M RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per estimates 10 per cent of the total world population and 70 per cent of India's population lives in rural India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the per capita income of the rural population is just Rs. 50 a day and this large population is isolated in terms of access to information, material and market; and

(c) if so, the steps the Central Government has taken or propose to take to provide easy access to market to the rural people and thus enhance their economic condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) According to one estimate 52.3 per cent of the world population live in rural areas during 2004. According to Population Census 2001, the rural population of India is 72.22 per cent.

(b) The available Statistics on National Income, as estimated by the Central Statistics Organisation, provide information on the per capita Net Domestic Product (NDP), separately for rural and urban areas at current prices at three points of time, *viz* 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1993-94. The annual per capita NDP in rural areas at national level has been estimated at Rs. 5783 in year 1993-94. The rural population is not isolated in terms of access to information, material and market.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development implements a self-employment scheme, namely, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) in all the rural areas of the country (except Chandigarh and Delhi). The scheme has provisions of marketing infrastructure and mechanism for creating both forward and backward linkages. Trade fairs are also organized by the Ministry to provide better marketing opportunities to improve socio-economic condition of the assisted swarozgar.

Pooling of resources for development of non-forest wastelands

2178. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether involvement of private sector and financial institutions to pool resources for development of non-forest wastelands has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to implement the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Rural Development in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) The Investment Promotion Scheme, which was under implementation to promote development of non-forest wastelands through mobilization of resources from financial institutions, banks, corporate bodies and private land holders, was discontinued with effect from April, 2003 due to lack of adequate response from the promoter agencies/land holders. This was largely due to lack of a clear-cut policy in the States of leasing out of large chunks of wastelands to private sector agencies and the comparatively attractive incentives including subsidy available to land holders in other land development schemes. In response to the recommendations made by the Parliamentary standing committee, the Committee has been apprised of these bottlenecks.